

TRIBAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST PROGRAM

Component: 50.20.902, 40.20.902

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Tribal Resource Specialist (TS) Program was initiated in January 1, 2008 funded with federal Children's Justice Act (CJA) funds. The program is currently in its second year of a three-year funding cycle. The CJA is a federal program charged with identifying the need for systemic changes in the area of investigating child abuse. The purpose of the Tribal Resource Specialist Program is to fund three projects to facilitate the development of formal linkages, protocols, and resources between local, county, state, federal judicial systems and the tribes to help streamline referrals of Native American children identified as at risk of or already experiencing child abuse and/or neglect.

FUNDS AWARDED

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Types of Funding</u>	<u>Total Funding</u>
FY 2008/09	Children's Justice Act (CJA) FFY 2008	\$ 300,000
FY 2009/10	Children's Justice Act (CJA) FFY 2009	\$ 300,000
FY 2010/11		Unknown

2008 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS (reported January 2009)

The program has been a challenge to implement for a variety of reason, the primary one being state courts and county social service agencies do not have a clear and thorough understanding of Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) law. Since ICWA children are the ones that most often come to the attention of service providers, tribes are finding they need to educate these services providers regarding the requirements of ICWA prior to implementing the objectives of the TS program.

- All projects experienced delays in hiring staff; however most were hired by mid year. Two of the projects experienced staff turnover during the first year.
- All projects experienced challenges in developing formal linkages with stakeholders due to the problems cited above.
- Two of the three projects were able to begin the process of identifying gaps in service deliver and begin implementing a tracking system between county social service agencies and the tribe. Meetings were conducted with key stakeholders to discuss a case management process.
- Two of the three projects began reviewing issues/problems with the referral system in order to streamline the referral process.
- Two of the three projects began participating in the development of written protocols to improve the exchange of information, coordination, and handling of Indian child welfare cases.
- All projects had set up systems to maintain data regarding their efforts to implement the program. This data will be used to write the third-year final report. The report will describe the project's efforts (including successes and/or challenges/barriers) to better service Indian children identified as at risk of or already experiencing child abuse and/or neglect.

2008/09 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

2009 statistics will not be received until January 2010, however the mid-year reports indicate the Tribal projects are becoming more successful in implementing all of the program objectives.

2009/10 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Available

2010/11 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Available